GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Tribal Welfare Department - Information Technology & Communication - Promoting Digital Inclusion of ST Households/Community in the Tribal Areas - Implementation of new Scheme of "Viability Gap Assistance for Broadband connectivity in Tribal Areas" & sub-scheme of "GIRISEVA KENDRAM"(Integrated Digital Service Delivery Centers) – Orders –Issued.

SOCIAL WELFARE (TW-BUD) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 6 Dated: 14-01-2019

Read the following:-

1. Minutes of 5th meeting of "State Council for Development of SCs & STs" held on 22.03.2018.
2. Minutes of 20th meeting of Nodal Agency for SCC & STC, held on 22.06.2018.
3. From the DTW, S.File No. SOW03-37/3/2018-IT SEC-COTW, dated 13.06.2018, 09.11.2018 and 9.1.2019.

ORDER:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has enacted the SCSP/TSP (Planning, Allocation & Utilization of Financial Resources) Act (Act 1 of 2013), to ensure the accelerated development of Scheduled Castes (SCs) & Scheduled Tribes (STs), with an emphasis on achieving equality, duly focusing upon economic, educational, health & nutrition & other key human development related indices, as also the development of infrastructure in the Tribal areas, leading to bridging of the gaps in development.

2. The increasing use of digital technologies in all walks of life is permeating the world. Governments have adopted digital technologies in governance & public service delivery in different degrees. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been at the forefront in this respect. The Vision 2029 document of the Government of Andhra Pradesh envisages 'Digital Connectivity' as one of the (12) non-negotiable basic needs for every person in the State.

3. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is a pioneer in creation of key centralised digital databases, such as People Hub, Land Hub, etc., their integration with Aadhaar & with various departmental services' databases - providing useful aid in governance at multiple levels-in policy making, in implementation of schemes, in grievance redressal etc. The wide spread use of web & mobile applications in departmental services, the use of digital classrooms & virtual classrooms in Schools & Colleges, the use of hand-held devices with biometric-capturing provisions in various public services are examples of digital-technologies-enabled-public service delivery in the State.

4. While, the digitalisation of governance &service delivery helps in serving the citizen in timely, citizen centric, transparent & accountable manner, it's architecture is premised on one hand, on the availability in the digitised databases maintained by the Government,of certain essential citizen identity parameters such as Aadhaar, Date of Birth, Caste/Community, Ration Card, MGNREGS Job card,etc., &on the other, on the citizens having access to essential electronic service delivery facilitators in their neighbourhood viz. connectivity and enabled devices.

5. In the above context, the Government is cognizant that the Tribal areas of the State, especially the areas under the jurisdiction of the ITDAs, suffer from a "Digital Divide", impeding optimal governance & service delivery in the Tribal areas. The geographical remoteness, scattered location of the settlements, relatively poor road connectivity &low population density creates peculiar challenges, leading to poor/ absence of enabling infrastructure for data/voice connectivity, low penetration by digital service delivery platforms, thin banking network/services hampering financial inclusion, non-universal enrolment in digital citizen databases & low digital literacy, etc., all leading to the "Digital Exclusion" of S.T. Households/Community in the Tribal Areas&hindering the bridging of the "gaps in development", a key considerationof the SCSP/TSP (Planning, Allocation & Utilization of Financial Resources) Act.

P.T.O.

6. Duly considering the above, the State Council for the Development of SCs and STs, in its meeting held on 22.03.2018, has deliberated, resolved & approved a new scheme of "Viability Gap Assistance for Broadband Connectivity in Tribal areas" for addressing(a) Gap in essential infrastructure for enabling connectivity & E- Services in Tribal areas(b) Viability Gap Funding for entities promoting connectivity in the Tribal areas (c) Viability Gap Funding for MSMEs/ Entrepreneurs providing last mile connectivity/ services (d) Viability Gap Funding for Electronic Digital Services (EDS). (e) Initiatives for promoting Digital Literacy in the Tribal areas(f) Other deserving, suitable initiatives/ interventions.

7. Aligned with the above resolutionof State Council for the Development of SCs & STs,the Nodal Agency under STC (earlier TSP), in its 20th meetingheld on 22.06.2018, has considered & approved the proposal of the Director of Tribal Welfare, for establishing"GIRI SEVA KENDRAM"(Integrated Digital Service Delivery Centres) in the 1,098 GPs in the ITDAs with an estimated cost of Rs.30.00 Lakhs each, as a component of thenew scheme of Viability Gap Assistance for Broadband Connectivity in Tribal Areas.

8. Accordingly, the Director of Tribal Welfare, A.P., Vijayawada, in the reference 3rd read above, has submitted a proposal to the Government,for the implementation of the (a) scheme of "Viability Gap Assistance for Broadband connectivity in Tribal Areas" as resolved by the State Council for the Development of SCs and STs, in its meeting held on 22.03.2018& (b) sub-scheme of "GIRI SEVA KENDRAM"(Integrated Digital Service Delivery Centres) in 1,098 GPs in the ITDAs, with an estimated cost of Rs. 30.00 Lakhs each, as approved by the Nodal Agency under STC (earlier TSP), in its 20th meeting held on 22.06.2018,as a component of the new scheme of Viability Gap Assistance (VGA) for Broadband Connectivity in Tribal Areas, with a request to issue the orders for implementation.

9. Government, after careful examination of the proposal, hereby issue the following orders for operationalising the scheme of "Viability Gap Assistance for Broadband connectivity in Tribal Areas" & the sub-scheme of "GIRI SEVA KENDRAM" (Integrated Digital Service Delivery Centres), as a component of the new scheme of Viability Gap Assistance (VGA) for Broadband Connectivity in Tribal Areas.

9.1 Scheme: "Viability Gap Assistancefor Broadband Connectivity in Tribal Areas"

i. *Budget*: Rs 90.00 Crores in the B.E. 2018-19.

ii. *Permissible Activities under the scheme*:
   (a) Gap in essential infrastructure for enabling connectivity & E- Services in Tribal areas.
   (b) Viability Gap Funding for entities promoting connectivity in the Tribal areas
   (c) Viability Gap Funding for MSMEs/ Entrepreneurs/Service Providers providing last mile connectivity/ services
   (d) Viability Gap Funding for Electronic Digital Services (EDS).
   (e) Initiatives for promoting Digital Literacy in the Tribal areas.
   (f) Other deserving suitable initiatives/interventions/innovations promoting digital inclusion in the tribal areas.

iii. *Awareness and Capacity Building:* (3) % of the annual budget under scheme is permitted to be utilized for awareness creation, digital literacy/capacity building of VO/VLE/Other stakeholders, baseline & evaluation studies, design/ prototype/ deployment of bespoke applications/ interventions/ services to bridge digital divide in tribal areas through the Giri Seva Kandrams, steps for universal enrolment of tribals in digital citizen identity databases, transparency measures including social audit, etc.

iv. *Approval:* The specific activities under the scheme shall be sanctioned after obtaining the approval of the Nodal Agency for ST Component.

....3.

9.2 Sub Scheme: "GIRI SEVA KENDRAM"(Integrated Digital Service Delivery Centres)

i. *Number*: (1) per Gram Panchayat in the ITDA areas.
ii. *Indicative cost* : Rs 30 lakhs per Giri Seva Kendram.
iii. *Total Number*: (1,098), in a phased manner.
iv. *1st Phase (2018-19):*300 Giri Seva Kendram are sanctioned in 2018-19.
v. *Building Type*: Pre-Engineered Building(PEB)
vi. *Executing Agency*: TW Engineering Department.
vii. *Purpose*: Doorstep delivery of e-Services, promoting digital inclusion.
viii. *Indicative Bouquet of Services*: (a) Office Space for Village Organisation (SHGs) (b) Aadhaar related services (c) Praja-Sadhikara Survey enrolment (d) Mee-Seva services(e) Business Correspondent services (f)Telemedicine(g) Digital literacy(h) Dissemination of all government schemes/programs/entitlements (j) Micro-ATMs (k) Video/Skype Conferencing(l) Other related services.
ix. *Implementing Agency*: Director of Tribal Welfare& PO,ITDA concerned.
x. *Facilitating Partner Agency*: Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty(SERP)
xi. *Custodian of Giri Seva Kendram*: Village Organisation(VO) of concerned G.P.
xii. *Delivery Channel:*Village Level Entrepreneur(VLE) selected by PO,ITDA & SERP.

10. For effective monitoring &implementation of the scheme, Government hereby constitutes the following Committees at State level & the District level.

A. State Level Committee: The scheme shall be steered by a State Level Committee, having the following composition:

Principal Secretary, SW & TW	---	Chairperson
Director of Tribal Welfare	---	Member-Convener
CEO, SERP	---	Member
MD/CEO, A.P. State Fibrenet Ltd.	---	Member
Director, Electronic Service Delivery	---	Member
MD, TRICOR	---	Member
MD, Streenidhi	---	Member
ENC, Tribal Welfare	---	Member
Co-opted invitees from other technical/expert agencies, NGOs etc.	---	Member/s

The State Level Committee shall (a)meet at least once in every quarter & more often, as required (b) review &ensure effective implementation of the scheme(c) suggest modifications required, if any (d) hold review with District Monitoring Committees &resolve the issues/bottlenecks identified.

B. **District Level Committees:** The scheme shall be implemented at field level under guidance of District Level Committee, having the following composition:

District Collector	---	Chairperson
PO, ITDA	---	Member-Convener
PD, DRDA	---	Member
Lead District Manager	---	Member
Co-opted invitees from other technical/expert agencies, NGOs etc.	---	Member/s

The District Level Committees shall (a)meet once in every month & more frequently, if required (b) ensure proper implementation of the scheme (c) implement decisions taken by the State Level Committee (d) bring operational issues to the notice of State Level Committee (e) involveLocal Body members, VTDAs, SHGs,Civil Society members,etc. in implementation of the scheme.

...4.

11. The expenditure for the implementation of the scheme/sub schemeshall be met from the following head of account:-

2225 - Welfare of SC, ST, Other Backward Classes and Minorities.
02 - Welfare of Scheduled Tribes.
102 - Economic Development.
11 - State Development Schemes.
22 - Viability Gap Assistance for Broadband Connectivity in Tribal Areas.

12. The Director of Tribal Welfare, all District Collectors & all Project Officers, ITDA shall take action accordingly & ensure the effective implementation of the scheme. The Engineer-in-Chief,Tribal Welfare Department shalltake necessary action for calling for bids for the (300) Giri Seva Kendrams, sanctioned in the 1st Phase (2018-19), & the Director of Tribal Welfare shall take necessary action for issue of operational guidelines for the implementation of the sub-scheme of Giri Seva Kendram (Integrated Digital Service Delivery Centres), under the scheme of Viability Gap Assistance for Broadband connectivity in Tribal Areas, and for establishing them in coordination with P.O., ITDAs & all concerned stakeholders.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

S.S.RAWAT
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Director of Tribal Welfare, AP, Vijayawada.
The CEO,SERP,AP
The MD/CEO, AP State Fibernet Limited
The Director, Electronic Service Delivery,AP
The Convener SLBC, AP.
The Managing Director, TRICOR, AP.
The MD, Streenidhi, A.P.,
The ENC, Tribal Welfare, Tadepalli.
All District Collectors in the State.
All Project Officers of ITDAs in the State A.P.
All Project Directors of DRDAs in the State.
All Lead District Managers in the State.
Copy to:
The PS to Secretary to Hon'ble C.M.
The P.S. to Chief Secretary
The Special Chief Secretary to Govt., Finance Department, Amaravati.
The Principal Secretary to Government, ITE&C Department, Amaravati.
The Principal Secretary to Government, RTGS, Amaravati.
The Principal Secretary to Government, PR&RD Dept.
The Secretary to Government, Finance (Welfare) Department, Amaravati.
The Secretary to Government, SERP.
The Commissioner, PR&RD.
The Accountant General, AP, Hyd.
The Pay and Accounts Officer, AP, Ibrahimpatnam.
The Chief Executive Officer, APCFMS, Ibrahimpatnam.
The P.S. to Hon'ble Minister for TW&E.
The P.S. to Principal Secretary, SW & TW
SF/SCs.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER